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MEXICAN CALENDAR.

GREAT STONE CALENDAR OF THE MEXICANS.

We give above a fac-similie of the great stone calendar of the Mexicans. It was discovered in the vale of Mexico, 1791, where it had been buried in the time of Cortez. It is of a species of porphyry, of a blackish gray color, and is twelve feet over and three feet in thickness, weighing probably about twenty-four tons. The sculptural work is in circles, the outer one about thirty-six feet in circumference. Now, that the recent work of the indefatigable Stephens has created so great an interest in the antiquities of Central America, the above will not be inappropriate, and will give our readers something of an idea of the ability of the ancient inhabitants of America. The spot where it was found is more than thirty miles from any quarry, and how transported to that distance is a question which it is probable would be difficult to answer. Such an attempt at this day, with all our boasted advantages, and superior acquaintance with the mechanic arts, would be considered as one almost insurmountable.

The stone is circular, covered with hieroglyphic figures, by which the Aztecs or Mexicans used to designate the months of the year, and which is supposed to have formed a perpetual calendar.

The concentric circles, says Humboldt, the numerous divisions and subdivisions engraven on this stone, are traced with mathematical precision. The more minutely the detail of this sculpture is examined, the greater the taste we find in the repetition of the same forms. In the centre of the stone is sculptured the celebrated sign *nahuiolin tonatiuh*, the sun, which is surrounded by eight triangular radii. Humboldt says the Mexicans have evidently followed the Persians in the division of time, as represented on this stone.

This curious relic of a wonderful people, it is believed, is now fixed on the outer wall of the cathedral which stands on the ruins of the great teocalli, or temple of the god Mixitli.

ARTS AND SCIENCES.

ARCHITECTURE AND ARCHITECTS.

No. I.

With your permission, I propose presenting to your readers a few hastily drawn sketches on architects and architecture.

I am satisfied that to most of your readers the subject will be dry and uninteresting, however briefly presented, and divested of all unnecessary details. It embodies no feats of strength and agility, no hair-breadth escapes, and no sacrifices on Cupid's altar to interest and excite the feelings and captivate the senses. It may nevertheless be interesting to the mechanic and artist, though novelty of every kind b excluded, and with this view and no other it will be presented.

In regular course, the progress of the art of building in the old world comes first in order. There we look for its origin, for its progress from infancy to manhood, and from its rudest state to its greatest perfection. Before considering it in regular course, however, our own country deserves briefly to be noticed, particularly as regards the advantages and disadvantages attending the progress of the art to its present state, in these United States.

In no country on earth have the arts and sciences advanced with more rapid strides than in this; arising chiefly from having the works of the old world before us, and the enterprising character of the people. We have the means and the disposition to use them, and the art of building has fully sustained its rank and importance with the other arts and professions among us.

Possessing these important advantages, with the desire to appropriate them to our use, as far as our circumstances will permit, we exhibit fair specimens of the style of all nations, together with every thing that contributes to comfort or convenience, and much that relates to mere pleasure and refinement. We have but few claims to any thing new and unknown to the old world, where every variety may be found in all the different grades of perfection and profusion.

Notwithstanding our entire confidence of possessing the ability of supplying all our wants in this department of science, from the unpretending cottage to the beautiful palace, from the mud hut to the lofty temple, and from the simple tent to the sumptuous seraglio, we are nevertheless encumbered with difficulties incident to, and inseparable from young nations, enjoying liberal institutions, which change of habits, education and feelings, and time alone, can remove.

To bring any art to perfection, a knowledge of it must be disseminated among the people. They will appreciate its importance, in proportion to their acquaintance with its intricacies and usefulness. The most certain means to bring professions into contempt with enlightened people, is to hedge them about, so as to bear the semblance of mystery. The perfect freedom enjoyed in this art, will soon disseminate knowledge with the people, and insure to the profession the best talent in our country.

Till recently a knowledge of the art of building was not esteemed as essential to, or as forming any part of a liberal education, to the great injury of both the public and the profession. And, consequently, the men best fitted in other respects to criticise the science and skill of the architect and his works, were so totally ignorant of the whole matter as to be incapable of performing this important office with any degree of credit to themselves, benefit to the architect, or justice to community. Hence it is not surprising, that quacks and quackery became the order of the day to a greater extent than was desirable.

Architects from their position, more than other citizens, have to bear the censure incident to the defects and failures in our buildings; and this sometimes occurs when they have had no share in their construction, and have not been so much as consulted in relation to them. They seem to be held responsible by the public, to a certain extent, as the conservatives of the taste and solidity in these various improvements—a principle which, under certain circumstances would be correct enough, but which, for various reasons, should be indulged with great caution in this country, as I shall endeavor to make appear in the concluding part of this communication.

It is freely admitted that many who profess to be guides to the public in this department, are not fitted by education, experience, and general knowledge for that important station; and that in all cases, the education of the architect should, in the first instance, equal that required in the different departments of engineering; and where this is not the case, he is not fit ted to take charge of buildings of importance; having no certain rules and principles to guide him, his efforts necessarily result in a failure, bringing censure upon himself and injury to his employer.

The architect requires science, ingenuity, and good taste. The engineer can dispense with the latter in most cases. This constitutes the only real difference in the two professions. This rule is disregarded, and hence we hear it not unfrequently observed, that our architects are deficient in learning, skill, and taste; that in these respects they will not bear comparison with those of the old world, more particularly those of former times; and that the bad taste and

want of solidity in our edifices, which sometimes prevail, are attributable to this cause. That this is true in some instances will not be controverted, and is regretted, no doubt, by all those in good standing in the profession. But after making every fair allowance on both sides of the question, is not the fault rather national than personal? Does it not arise from the education and habits of the people, the infant state of our country, the freedom of our institutions, the want of due discrimination between the men of known reputation and the quack in the profession, and the absence of means to accomplish all that has been done by older and despotic governments, which can in most cases command both men and means to perform whatever they desire. These causes alone appear to be sufficient to account for any real difference that exists

But this is not all. The architect more than any other profession, is always at the mercy of his personal employer, and of committees. After making the most scientific plans, the result of much labor, study, and long experience, the whole is destroyed by the interference of persons in power, whose only qualifications arise from official influence or length of purse. The work proceeds, and he finds his science and taste impeached, when the fault originated entirely with others, and was beyond his control.

I shall commence the general subject in the proper order in my next.

AUTOMATA.

These interesting trifles have engaged the attention of some of the most ingenious men in their construction, and have excited the wonder and admiration of the world by their performances. In giving on account of the extent to which this amusing species of ingenuity has been carried, the celebrated statue of Memnon, one of the wonders of ancient Egypt, has some pretensions to lead the way. There is positive testimony to the circumstance of sounds being emitted from the statue, at the rising and setting of the sun. Many have attempted to explain the phenomenon upon scientific principles; others attribute it to the trickery of priests. It may be in vain to conjecture what the contrivance was; but if a certain disposition of strings exposed to the rarefaction of the air, or to the morning and evening breezes, produced these sounds; or if any method of arranging the internal apertures so as to receive them from a short distance, were the artifice; it argues a considerable acquaintance with the science of music and with acoustics. Wilkins quotes a musical invention of Cornelius Dreble of similar pretensions, which being set in the sunshine would of itself render a soft and pleasant harmony, but being removed into the shade would presently become silent; so that we have a modern contrivance quite similar. The Memnon is said to have uttered a joyful sound when the sun rose and shone upon it, but when the sun set the sound was mournful. Pausanius describes it as resembling the snapping of a harp string. Strabo and other ancient writers pretend to have heard the sounds, which are noticed as late as the fourth century after Christ.

We have vague accounts of automata by the early writers; Homer, Aristotle and Plato speak of them. The statues and the flight of Dædalus are equally famous, and perhaps fabulous. He is the first of whom we have any account that constructed machines which imitated the motions of the human body. Some of his statues moved about spontaneously, and are said to have required tying down to prevent them from running away. It is probable, from the statements of Callistratus, tutor of Demosthenes, that his statues received their motion from the mechanical powers. Aristotle speaks of them in his treatise *De Anima*, as successful imitations of the human figure and human functions, in walking, running, &c., but attempts to account for their motions by the concealment of quicksilver.

Archytas's flying dove, is another of the ancient automata. The author is supposed to have lived about 400 B. C., and was a Pythagorean philosopher at Tarentum. It was made of wood, and the principal circumstance of its history, which Favorinus mentions, is that like some other birds of too much wing, when it alighted on the ground it could not raise itself up again. Aulus Gellius, who also mentions it, adds that it was suspended by balancing, and animated by a concealed spirit.

Among the curiosities of his day, Walchius mentions an iron spider, of great ingenuity. In size it did not exceed the ordinary inhabitants of our houses, and could creep or climb with any of them, wanting none of their powers, except, of which nothing is said, the formation of the web.

Various writers of credit relate that the celebrated Regiomontanus, (John Muller), who flourished in the 16th century, constructed a self moving wooden eagle, which flew to meet the emperor Maximilian as he approached the gates of Nuremberg, and hovered over him as he entered the town. He is also reputed by the same authority, to have produced an iron fly, which would start from his hand at table, and after making the tour of the room return to its master. It was put in motion by wheel work, and performed different motions.

Albertus Magnus, bishop of Ratisbon, a distinguished scholar of the 13th century, spent thirty years in constructing a figure which advanced to the door when any one knocked, opened it and saluted the visitor.

A speaking head is also said to have been made by Roger Bacon.

A hydraulic clock presented to Charlemagne by the caliph Haroun al Raschid, merits record in the history of these inventions. It excited the admiration of Europe at the period of its arrival. Twelve small doors divided the dial into the twelve hours, and opened successively as each hour arrived, when a ball fell from the aperture upon a brazen bell and struck the time, the door remaining open. At the end of twelve hours, the same number of mounted knights, handsomely caparisoned, came out simultaneously from the dial, rode round the plate and then returning shut themselves in again.

The above are by some of the more incredulous considered as altogether fabulous, or at least exaggerated. They serve to show, however, that the idea of applying machinery to imitate life is of very antient date, and that considerable success was not deemed impossible. Those which follow are perhaps quite as marvellous, but are authenticated beyound all cavil.

Janellus Furrianus, an artist of Cremona, constructed some very ingenious figures for the amusement of the emperor Charles V. Some of these beat drums, or played upon flutes, others presented the spectacle of a battle, attacking each other with spears.

In the *Memoirs of the Academy of Sciences* for 1729, a description is given of a set of actors representing a pantomine in five acts.

But previously to this, M. Camus had described an automaton group which he had constructed for the amusement of Louis XIV. It consisted of a coach and two horses. The driver smacked his whip, and the horses immediately set off, moving their legs after the manner of real horses. The carriage turned at the edge of the table on which it was placed, and when opposite to the king it stopped, a page got down and opened the door, on which a lady alighted, presented a petition with a curtesy, and re-entered the carriage. The page then shut the door, the carriage proceeded, and the servant running after it jumped up behind it.

About a century ago, Le Droz, a Swiss clock maker, presented a clock to the king of Spain with a sheep and dog attached to it. The bleating of the former was admirably correct; and the dog was placed in custody of a basket of loose fruit. If any removed the fruit, he would growl, snarl, gnash his teeth, and endeavor to bite until it was restored. He also constructed a writing automaton, who sat at a desk, dipped his pen in the ink, shook it, and wrote in French whatever was dictated to him. This must have been done of course by human intervention.

The son of the above artist, who was the original inventor of musical boxes, constructed a snuff box, out of one of the apartments of which, as soon as the lid was opened, there rose up a very small bird, of green enamelled gold. This minute curiosity, which was only three quarters of an inch in length, wagged its tail shook its wings, opened its bill, and poured forth such a clear melodious song as would fill a room twenty feet square with its harmony. Another production of his represented a young female, which played different tunes on a harpsichord, following the notes in the music book with her eyes and head, and having finished playing, rose and saluted the company.

A French officer by the name of Degennes constructed a peacock, which could walk about as if alive, pick up grains of corn from the ground, digest them as if they had been submitted to the action of a stomach, and afterwards discharge them in an altered form.

M. Vaucanson probably took the idea of his celebrated duck from the above. This duck resembled the living animal in size, and was probably the most wonderful piece of mechanism ever made. It so exactly resembled the living animal, that not a bone of the body, and hardly a feather of the wings seem to have escaped his imitation and direction The radius, the humerus and the cubitus had each their exact offices. The automaton ate, drank, and quacked in perfect harmony with nature. It gobbled food with avility, and even muddled the water after the manner of the living bird, and ultimately evacuated its food in a digested state. The process of digestion was effected by chemical solution.

M. Vaucanson also exhibited at Paris in 1738 a flute player, whose powers exceeded those of many living performers, and executed notes of great difficulty. He also produced another machine of the first order for ingenious and difficult contrivance. It played the Provencal shepherd's pipe, and beat at the same time on the tambour de basque. It was capable of playing about twenty different airs, consisting of minuets, rigadoons and contra-dances. The force of wind required to produce the lowest note was one ounce; the highest fifty-six pounds. Its construction was altogether different from that of the flute player. M. Vaucanson with great liberality communicated to the Academy an account of his inventions, which, though very interesting are too long to be inserted here.

The automaton chess player of Kempelen for a great number of years attracted the curiosity of Europe and America, and puzzled the wisest heads in Christendom to account for the almost superhuman skill with which it defeated the best players in every country where it was exhibited. It is now a solved mystery. A person was very ingeniously concealed within, who directed the movements. Kempelen succeeded in constructing a speaking figure, which very distinctly pronounced words in several different languages

M. Maelzel, who for several years exhibited Kempelen's chess player, and with whose death the automaton ceased to be a wonder, was himself an extraordinary mechanician. He invented several ingenious figures, such as rope Jancers speaking figures, &c.; but his chef d'oeuvre is the trumpeter. It executed with great effect both the Austrian and French cavalry marches and signals, besides a number of other pieces. The sound of this trumpet was pure and

more agreeable than that which the ablest musician was able to produce from that instrumeat.

M. Maillardet, a Swiss artist, of modern celebrity also, merits association with any of the preceding. He constructed a female figure which executed eighteen figures on the piano-forte. The lady, before commencing a tune, bowed her head to the audience; was apparently agitated with an anxiety and diffidence not always felt in real life; her eyes then seemed intent on the notes, her bosom heaved, and, at a distance, it was impossible to discover any semblance of a work of art. Maillardet also exhibited a magician, who answered any question taken from twenty medallions. The medallion selected was placed in a drawer, the magician rose with a solemn gait, bowed his head, drew a circle or two with his wand, consulted his book, lifted it towards his face, as if in meditation. He then struck with his wand on the wall above his hand, and two folding doors opened discovering an inscription, which was the reply. His other automata are, a boy, which draws and writes; a little figure a few inches in height which dances to music produced in a glass case in which it is inclosed; a humming bird, which issues from a box, sings, and returns again; a steel spider; a hissing serpent, &c. The spider exhibited all the movements of that animal, and ran on the surface of a table during three minutes. The serpent crawled about in every direction, opened its mouth, hissed, and darted out its tongue.

Two automaton flute players were exhibited in England some years since. They were of the size of life, and performed ten or twelve duetts. That they really played the flute was tested by placing the finger on any hole which for the moment was unstopped by the automaton.

M. Glantz, one of the first mechanicians of Vienna, has lately finished an instrument of several years' labor, which by pressing a spring, executes several melodies in a tenor voice, a barytone, or deep bass. This instrument, if the account be correct, excites the most lively sensations in the salons of Vienna. The inventor intends to place the instrument in the head of an automaton.

An automaton was exhibited a few years since in Albany, the contrivance of a native of Nantucket, which played the harmonicon with considerable perfection. It was a female figure, which held the instrument in her hands; as it commenced playing the chest was seen to have, and with its foot beat time to the music. It was criticised by some with rather more severity than was necessary, when it is considered that it was the effort of a humble and unpretending mechanic. We have not heard what became of it after its brief exhibition in this city.

We have given as complete an account of the most celebrated automata as our limits will admit. In doing so, we believe no remarkable contrivance of the kind has escaped our notice. Perhaps little else than amusement has ever been derived from them by the spectator, or the reader; but they may have served to develop mechanical powers which have become useful in other constructions. Many of the sterner sort, affect to regard them as humbugs, or at least as beneath the attention of philosophical minds. Such may find amusement in the following anecdote, in which we may equally admire the ingenuity, and the wit, of the learned professor.

Dr. Waterhouse, justly denominated the American Jenner, while professor of natural history in Harvard college, some years ago, made an artificial insect, to which he could communicate motion while he held it in his hand. After exhibiting it to the class he was lecturing, and permitting every pupil to inspect it, none of whom could tell to what class of insects it belonged, though they all believed it to be a real living creature, the doctor thus addressed them: I suppose, young gentleman, you wish to be informed of the name of this bug; had you examined it more attentively, you would have perceived that it was a humbug!

To pass from these mere curiosities, we find many machines, which, although they do not take the form any living creature, yet perform many of the movements and labors of even the highest order of intelligent beings, in a manner far surpassing the utmost power of animation. At the head of this class we may place the steam engine, whose tremendous power we daily witness, performing immense labors. In this connection we may also place the calculating machine of Mr. Babbage, which computes mathematical and astronomical tables with an accuracy and despatch almost incredible. Also the calculating machine of Dr. Roth of Paris, which performs automatically, all the operations of arithmetic, from simple addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, to vulgar and decimal fractions, involution and evolution, arithmetical and geometrical progression, and the construction of logarithms. The human brain is a clumsy instrument beside these machines in their proper avocations, although they are the offspring and require the direction of the human mind. We shall take occasion to groupthe useful automata in another article.

INVENTIONS, DISCOVERIES, ETC.

THE SPLITTING MILL.

The most extraordinary and best attested instance of enthusiasm existing in conjunction with perseverance, is related of the *founder* of the Foley family. This man, who was a fiddler living near Stowbridge, was often witness of the immense labor and loss of time caused by dividing the rods of iron necessary in the process of making nails. The discovery of the process called splitting, in works called splitting mills, was first made in Sweden, and the consequences of this advance in art were most disastrous to the manufacturers of iron about Stowbridge. Foley, the fiddler, was shortly missed from his accustomed haunts, and was not again seen for many years. He had mentally resolved to ascertain by what means the process of splitting bars of iron was accomplished; and, without communicating his intention to a single human being, he proceeded to Hull; and thence, without funds, he worked his passage to the Swedish iron port. Arrived in Sweden, he begged and fiddled his way to the iron foundries, where, after a time, he became an universal favorite with the workmen; and, from the apparent want of intelligence, or any thing like ultimate object, he was received into the works, to every part of which he had access. He took the advantage thus offered, and having stowed his memory with observations, and all the combinations, he disappeared from amongst his kind friends as he had appeared, no one knew whence or whither.

On his return to England he communicated his voyage and its results to Mr. Knight and another person in the neighborhood, with whom he was associated, and by whom the necessary buildings were erected and machinery provided. When at length every thing was prepared, it was found that the machinery would not act, at all events it did not answer the sole end of its erection—it would not split the bar of iron.

Foley disappeared again, and it was concluded that shame and mortification at his failure had driven him away forever. Not so. Again, though somewhat more speedily, he found his way to the Swedish iron works, where he was received most joyfully; and, to make sure of their fiddler, he was lodged in the splitting mill itself. Here was the very aim and end of his life attained beyond his utmost hope. He examined the works, and very soon discovered the cause of his failure. He now made drawings, or rude tracings; and, having abided an ample time to verify his observations, and to impress them clearly and vividly on his mind, he made his way to the port, and once more returned to England. This time he was completely successful, and by the results of his experience enriched himself and greatly benefitted his countrymen.

ARTIFCIAL ICE.

We announced some weeks since that the Londoners had got ahead of us in the ice business, having invented a kind of ice for the purposes of skating in the summer season. The following extract gives further particulars:

"The proprietors of the patent artificial skating floors have taken the extensive grounds in the New Roads, known as Jenkins' nursery grounds, where they are about to exhibit publicly the skating floors. One room will be about 300 feet long and 100 wide, tastefully arranged, and decorated with scientific effect by Mr. Broadwell, the celebrated machinist of Covent Garden Theatre, to whose ingenuity the public will probably be indebted for what can scarcely fail to become a place of great attraction. These artificial floors have all the appearance of ice; and upon it the common skate is used with the same facility as upon real ice. The invention is patronized by many members of the Skating Club. Besides public rooms and promenades, there will be rooms for private societies and individual practice, where this elegant art will be taught. The artificial ice is capable of being laid on floors in gentlemen's houses, and we anticipate that more of them will have a skating floor than a billiard room. When not in use and covered by a carpet, it will have the ordinary appearance of an apartment arranged for domestic comfort."

DAGUERREOTYPE.

When a discovery has been made in science, there is no telling at the time to what useful purposes it may afterwards be applied. The process invented by Daguerre, of painting with sunbeams, has been recently applied to aid the police in suppressing crime. When any suspicious person or criminal is arrested in France, the officers have him immediately Daguerreotyped, and the likeness is placed in the criminal cabinet for future reference. The rogues, to defeat this object, resort to contortions of the visage and horrible grimaces.

NEW GUN.

A new gun or cannon has lately been exhibited before Gen. Scott, at Washington, which will throw a ball the distance of a mile in one second, and that too without the aid of gunpowder.

LIFE PRESERVING TRUNK.

A trunk has been invented in Lancaster, in the state of Pennsylvania, both water proof and designed as a life-preserver. It would be a comfortable thing for a poor, castaway voyager, not only to be sustained by his trunk, but also to have it contain a *quant. suff.* of provisions. A correspondent says an experiment with one of these trunks was some time since tried at Lancaster, in the presence of a number of gentlemen of the first respectability, and found fully to answer the purpose. It retained its buoyancy on the water with 250 lbs. of pig iron in it, and they say would have floated with it a month.

NEW RAIL ROAD CAR.

A very ingeniously constructed model of a rail road car is now exhibiting at the Exchange, for the gratification of the curious. The objects said to be accomplished by this invention are to enable the cars, at any speed whatever, to turn the shortest curve that may be necessary without the danger of running off, and also to prevent the friction of the flanges against the sides of the rails, thereby causing no swinging of the cars from side to side, so disagreeable to passengers, and injurious to the road. There are other advantages.

EMINENT MECHANICS AND ARTISTS.

ROGER SHERMAN.

Was born at Newton, Massachusetts, April 19, 1721. His father was a respectable farmer, but of circumstances too moderate to allow him to give his son any other education than that furnished by the village school. Roger was early apprenticed to a shoemaker; and, on the death of his father, when he was only nineteen years of his age, he supported his mother and a numerous family by his labor, his older brother having, some time before, removed to New Milford, in Connecticut. Thither the whole family also removed in 1743, Roger performing the journey on foot, with his tools on his back. Soon afterwards he relinquished the shoemaking trade, and entered into partnership with his brother as a country merchant. From his earliest youth, he had always manifested an unconquerable avidity for knowledge, and, availing himself of every opportunity, became remarkable for the variety and extent of his attainments at an early age. His skill in mathematics occasioned him to be appointed, in 1745, county surveyor. In astronomy he was likewise a proficient. In 1748, and for several succeeding years, he supplied the astronomical calculations for an almanac published in the city of New York. Having devoted for some time his leisure moments to the study of the law, he was admitted, in 1754, to the bar, where he rapidly rose to distinction. In the following year, he was appointed a justice of the peace for New Milford, which town he also represented the same year in the colonial assembly. In 1759, he was appointed judge of the court of common pleas for the county of Litchfield—an office which he filled with great reputation for the two ensuing years. He then fixed his residence in New Haven, of which town he was made a justice of the peace, and often represented it in the colonial assembly. In 1765, he was made judge of the court of common pleas, and, about the same time, he was appointed treasurer of Yale college. In 1766, he was elected a member of the upper house in the general assembly of Connecticut, which station he retained for nineteen years, when, the office of judge being considered incompatible with it, he retired. His judgeship he held until his election, in 1789, to congress, under the federal constitution. His early and strenuous support of American rights caused him to be chosen a delegate to the first general congress of 1774. He was present at the opening of the session, and continued to occupy a seat in that body until his death, in 1793, a space of nineteen years. His whole congressional career was marked by indefatigable zeal, industry and fortitude. His sterling sense, integrity and firmness, gave him great influence in the assembly. The estimation in which he was held by his fellow members may be inferred from the selection of him as the associate of Adams, Franklin, Jefferson and Livingston, on the committee appointed to prepare the Declaration of Independence. While holding a seat in congress, he served the state which he represented in various other ways. During the war, he was a member of the governor's council of safety; and, from 1784 to his death, was mayor of the city of New Haven. In 1783, he was commissioned, together with Richard Law, both of whom were at the time judges of the superior court, to revise the statutes of the state—a work of great labor and difficulty, and which was executed with corresponding ability. In 1787, he was a member of the convention which formed the present constitution of the U. States; and its adoption in Connecticut was owing, in a great measure, to his influence. He appeared before the state convention, and made a plan and perspicuous explanation of the principles of the instrument. He was continued in his place in the house of representatives under the new government, and, at the expiration of two years, was chosen to the senate, but was obliged to retire from this station in consequence of ill health, and died July 23, 1793, in the 73d year of his age. The predominant trait of Mr. Sherman's character was his practical wisdom, or, in other words, his strong common sense. "That," said Mr. Jefferson, on one occasion, when pointing out the various members of congress to a friend, "that is Mr. Sherman, of Connecticut—*a man who never said a foolish thing in his life.*" He possessed singular power in penetrating into the characters and motives of man, while the recitude and integrity of his own nature enabled him to acquire an extraordinary influence. Though a man of naturally strong passions, he obtained a complete control over them by means of his deep religious spirit, and became habitually calm, sedate and self-possessed. As a speaker, he was slow and hesitating, and devoid of most of the graces of oratory; but the weight of his matter, and the conviction of his sincerity, caused him to be listened to with great respect and attention. His learning was extensive and profound.

ANTONIO SOLARIO.

The romantic adventures of the Neapolitan painter Antonio Solario, better known under the name of *Il Zingaro* (the Tinman) are worth recording; as, although an able artist and well known at Rome, his name has escaped the biographers.

He was the son of an artist of Chieti, in the Abruzzi, came to Naples early in the fifteenth century, to exercise the trade of his father; and was occasionally employed in the house of Colastonio del Piore, one of the most celebrated painters of his time. Here he saw and loved the artist's daughter, and so ardent was his attachment, that he had the temerity to demand her in marriage of her father. Colantonio, although a distinguished and wealthy man, betrayed no irritation at this audacious proposal, which appeared rather to amuse than offend him, and, without positively rejecting it, told the tinman that he would give him his daughter in marriage, whenever he became as good a painter as her father. The enamored artizan was not dismayed by the condition; and demanded time for its performance. Colantonio gave him ten years, and even promised that during that period his daughter should not marry. This singular agreement soon became the talk of Naples, and even of the Neapolitan court, where it is said to have been ratified in presence of queen Marguerite, and the princess Joanna. The enterprising tinman, attracted by the celebrity of Lippo d'Almasia, departed for Bologna, and studied in that school with such ability and perseverance, that in a few years he made great progress in painting and design.

Ere long the name of Il Zingaro became celebrated throughout Lombardy, and after seven year's study at Bologna, he surpassed his teacher, and proceeded to the other schools of Italy, in quest of higher talent. He worked in the *atteliers* of the most distinguished masters at Florence, Ferrara, Rome, and Venice, and after the expiration of nine years and a few months, he returned to Naples during the reign of Joanna II. A nobleman whose portrait he had painted, presented him to the queen, and he besought her acceptance of a small picture of the Madonna and infant Saviour, surrounded with angels, which Signorella says is still in existence. At the same time, to the great astonishment of the court, he declared himself Il Zingaro della Promessa! His professional ability was farther proved by a portrait of the queen, which added greatly to his reputation.

His royal patroness sent for Colantonio, and asked his opinion of the two pictures, without naming the artist. Struck with admiration, he acknowledged with generous frankness, his own inferiority to the painter of those pictures, whom he pronounced the ablest artist of his time. On this avowal, Il Zingaro who was concealed in the apartment, stepped forward and claimed the performance of the agreement. Colantonio was infinitely surprized by the discovery, and after having ascertained that the pictures were really executed by the tinman, gave his consent to the marriage. He was censured by some of his connections for bestowing his daughter upon a man of such mean origin. "I marry her," he replied, "to no tinman, but to Solario the painter."

The professional ability and the romantic attachment of Il Zingaro, which name adhered to him through life, rapidly increased his reputation, and from the period of his marriage he was much employed. He introduced his wife's portrait and his own into the altar piece of San Pietro in Areno, at Naples. Dominichi praises his *Descent from the Cross*, and compares it with the best pictures of Albert Durer, who flourished a century later. Il Zingaro excelled principally in heads, which he coloured admirably, and in a style resembling that of Titian.
He died in 1455.

DEFERRED ARTICLES.

GOVERNORS OF THE STATES.

The following is a complete list of the governors of the several states, including the results of the recent elections:

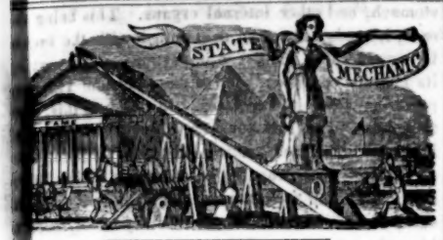
STATES.	GOVERNORS.
Maine,	John Fairfield.
New Hampshire,	John Paige.
Vermont,	Charles Paine.
Massachusetts,	John Davis.
Rhode Island,	Samuel W. King.
Connecticut,	Wm. W. Ellsworth.
New York,	Wm. H. Seward.
New Jersey,	Wm. Pennington.
Pennsylvania,	David R. Porter.
Delaware,	Wm. B. Cooper.
Maryland,	Francis Thomas.
Virginia,	John Rutherford, Acting.
North Carolina,	John M. Morehead.
South Carolina.	John P. Richardson.
Georgia,	Charles J. McDonald.
Alabama,	Benjamin Fitzpatrick.
Mississippi,	T. A. Tucker.
Louisiana,	A. B. Roman.
Arkansas,	Archibald Yell.
Tennessee,	James C. Jones.
Kentucky,	Robert B. Letcher.
Ohio,	Thomas Corwin.
Michigan,	John S. Barry.
Indiana,	Samuel Bigger.
Illinois,	Thomas Carlin.
Missouri,	Thomas Reynolds.

RASPBERRY LEAF TEA.

A correspondent of the Bangor Whig states that the fine green leaves of the red raspberry, gathered in a fair day, and cured in an open, airy room, are not inferior to the ordinary China teas. As to flavor, we regard that as almost a matter entirely governed by habit; but to the person whose taste has not been accustomed to tea, we have no hesitation in saying, raspberry leaves, if picked and cured with the same care, would be far preferable. Then as to health, it is well known that tea tends to derange the nervous system, and renders nearly helpless half the females of the age; while on the contrary, the medical virtues of the raspberry leaf are both soothing and healing—every way promoting the health and strength. Were we not too much governed by habit and a love of foreign luxuries, we should readily prefer, not only this, but even many other American plants, to Chinese tea.

INDIAN SKELETON.

A gentleman of Burrillville, R. I., a few weeks since, excavated the skeleton of an Indian, which to appearances must have been seven feet high; it measured from the ancle to the socket bone of the hip, three feet—the teeth were white and perfectly sound, and were all double. The ground has been improved as a garden for half a century. The Indian no doubt has lain there two hundred years. He was found buried with his head downwards, and to the south.



ALBANY, SATURDAY, DEC. 18, 1841.

AGENTS are wanted to extend the circulation of this paper throughout the towns and counties of this State, and in the different States of the Union. Application made to the publishers, *post paid*, will be attended to.

Subscriptions will be received by the following persons, to whom money may be paid.

G. H. Tingley, 189 Broadway, New-York.
James M. Edgerton, West Troy.
William Burton, Cohoes.
Jonas B. Gilson, Waterford.
Charles A. Sweet, Lansingburgh.
P. P. Cleveland, Skeneateles.
T. S. Hawks, Buffalo.
Benj. Holt, Little Falls.
Thomas Rouch, Utica.

We are making arrangements to have the paper supplied at the counters of the newsmen in all sections of the country, for the accommodation of those who prefer that way of procuring them.

SUBSCRIPTION LISTS should now be sent in with as little delay as possible. This paper will be sent to those who have subscription lists, for the purpose of conveying the above notice. The paper will henceforth be published every Saturday, relying upon the efforts of its friends to sustain it. There are several counties which have not yet been heard from; when shall we have their report?

A GOOD IDEA.

Several manufacturers recommend to their apprentices to take the Mechanic, and give them overwork to pay their subscriptions. By this means they are furnished with a useful paper, with which to amuse their leisure hours, and, if preserved, lay the foundation of a future library. The small sum of one shilling a month does not overtax the young mechanic's purse. Were this plan generally pursued, it would be found beneficial to all parties.

OUR OBJECTS.

We are sorry to announce that the ultimate objects of our paper seem a source of misapprehension to two or three of our friends; one of whom wisely suggests "that he doubts the expediency of having such a paper. Why should mechanics have a paper? Why should we war with other portions of society?" The other gentlemen seem to fear that we are only assuming the cloak of neutrality, that we may the more effectually stab one of the great political parties under the fifth rib. Knowing the natural vigilance of partizans we expected to encounter doubts of our political honesty; and are glad they have been so early made, that they may be promptly met.

As to the ridiculous notion that in establishing a paper for the dissemination of scientific and general information valuable to mechanics, to the publicity of improvements in mode or materials of mechanical manufactures; and to the other, the peculiar wants of our class, we seek to war with the other portions of community—we will only name it to show its utter absurdity. The merchants have for some years supported a work, giving them information in rules of trade and other knowledge of value to them alone. The doctor—works devoted to the discovery, cure, or prevention of human diseases. The farmer—works which give him information in practcial and theoretical farming; and all acknowledge that they have gained important information and assistance from them. Yet in this has either warred against community generally? Have they not rather given new privileges and virtually guarantied new rights to all, in consequence. But if they have warred in this, then if in showing the shoemaker an improved way of making shoes, the blacksmith of tempering steel, we commit war upon other classes—we can still justify our warfare, cruel and exterminating though it may be, on the ground of prudence.

But we think we can aver with all seriousness and maintain with all plausibility the need and practical utility to mechanics of a paper established on our grounds. The important advantage and therefore necessity among lawyers of a journal furnishing them with the latest reports, which are their guidance in legal practice; or among farmers which shall show by theoretical reasoning, or demonstrate by practical experiment, the best ground for growing grain, the best manner of preparing the ground for that crop, the best time of sowing, and for reaping; the best stock of cattle, or the best manner of raising them. But among mechanics, whose improvements are much more general, there must be much more need of an agent to make them known. There are improvements every day making in the different manufactures of one kind or another An intelligent mechanic in the course of his life discovers new modes and facilities in his business, which he is willing to give to the world, but which for want of proper communication can only be made known through the slow and imperfect means of verbal communication.

Again the man who gave these would be sure of the credit of his invention, and thereby be induced to further effort for useful invention. A mechanic for instance, makes a discovery which simplifies his labor one half. This he is desirous to make known to his fellow craftsmen, but can find no means of conveying the information to them. He may even put himself to the expense of advertising it, and ten to one the means he chooses will not carry the invention to a tithe of the persons intended. How much the mechanics of his trade might have gained from this knowledge, yet this is only one instance of a thousand. There are unquestionably in this country a hundred modes of prosecuting the same trade, some of which have an advantage fifty per cent over others. How necessary does it here appear for an organ of communication through which all of one trade can avail themselves of these increased facilities.

There are a thousand profitable applications of the useful sciences to mechanical labor, to be yet discovered and applied. There is an immense variety of the uses of mechanical powers, which require only to be sought to afford the most practical results. These are every day being developed. And here again we see an imperious necessity for a medium of communication, which will bring this information home to the class interested.

Isolated efforts have long been made to improve the physical position and to effect a mental and moral elevation in the mechanic class, and to resist measures injurious to them. Appeals were made, and associations formed to bring about these important results; but for want of the means by which these ideas could be made known, awakening similar appeals, and causing corresponding efforts in other sections, thereby creating a unity of sentiment by which all the great objects could be accomplished.

In the great struggle against the odious and oppressive state prison system, efforts of the strongest kind have again and again been made in the different sections of our state, as this trade or that felt the greatest weight of oppression; but for want of proper means of awakening it, no general action could be had; and the efforts of mechanics have long been futile to rid themselves of a measure fraught with the direst consequences on their general interest and reputation. Had they had the means of promulgating a concert of sentiment, and through that of action, they would have had their rights in the matter long ago.

We might go on, and write a work on the necessity of this *general medium of communication*, but are content to let further proof of that necessity be shown by the advantages derived from it.

But before we close we will speak of another thing which if not needed before, or now soon will be, that is the discussion of measures having a bearing on mechanic interests. It is on account of this discussion that we expect the cry of partizan feeling to be raised against us. But this shall not prevent the liberal use of our columns for these subjects on both sides of the question. Mechanics certainly have as great an interest in these questions as any other class of people, and as they will soon be called to act on them, that it is important that they be prepared to meet them understandingly.

As to the charge of party favoritism or prejudice, we beg to call the attention of the reader to the proceedings of the Convention, given in our last paper, by which it will be seen to be impossible for us to exercise any such influence, and maintain our places as your publishers. But though we have them, we feel that we need no such checks or balances to keep us in our course clear of the quicksands of party. Again we say that we are not in the least disposed to exercise *any* partizan bias even had we the power, (which we doubt exceedingly.) Our objects are of a higher and nobler cast, and we repel with indignation any imputation of partizan design; to gratify which we should have to break every bond of good faith, and which every principle of honor most strongly repudiates.

INTELLECTUAL IMPROVEMENT OF THE MECHANIC.

The intellectual improvement of the mechanic is one of the principal and most important objects of our paper. The furtherance of art is secondary to the culture of mind, and though the former may be considered the more important, yet that which concerns the immortal being must be paramount to all others. Men are disposed to excuse themselves from mental exercise, by the plea of inability from a lack of opportunity. But this excuse is not valid. A thousand examples might be introduced to prove its fallacy, and show to what height of eminence men may attain, by the proper improvements of the "ends" and scraps of time which are too frequently spent in idle gossip, or in evil society. Indeed from these examples it seems that the most mechanical occupations are favorable to the development of the mind and its godlike powers; habits of close thinking are acquired, and that intensity of reasoning which has marked the productions of self taught mechanics, above others, and astonished the world. Perhaps there is no work in the English language that displays such a depth, clearness, and intensity of reasoning, as a work on the *the Soul*, by Samuel Drew a humble shoe-maker of England.

The confinement of the mechanical trades can never fetter the free fancy, or chain the imagination.

Butterworth the author of *The Farmer's Boy*, one of the most beautiful poems in the English language, composed the whole while engaged at his trade, and wrote it down during those little intervals of time, which are so often allowed to pass unimproved. We will refer but to one example more, to a name bright in the annals of fame, of which as a nation we may justly feel proud—BENJAMIN FRANKLIN! With his history every one is doubtless well acquainted; at least every mechanic *should* be. His advice should be always present in the mind, and should shine in letters of gold in every work shop in the land. "*Take care of the* MINUTES *and the hours will take care of themselves.*"

The remarks of the Rev. E. D. Allen in his introductory lecture before the Young Men's Association of this city, are not inappropriate, while speaking on this subject, and we commend them to the mechanics, one and all, old and young.

I address some to-night, whose very occupation seems to forbid the hope that they can accomplish wonders, by way of intellectual improvement. I mean the mechanic. Busily employed in manual labor; obliged in a great measure to confine his thoughts to the piece of mechanism with which his hands are engaged; how can *he* expect to excel in mental culture? Where are his advantages for pursuing and acquiring truth? I admit that he has difficulties to encounter which some others do not experience; but they are not insurmountable. To remove them, a higher degree of effort, a more fixed attention, a more indomitable spirit of perseverance may be required. But it *can* be done The avenues to science and mental improvement are not closed to him. No exclusive patent for knowledge has been given to the learned few. The price of truth is not such that *he* cannot obtain it. The multiplication of books and other issues from the press the springing up of these associations for mutual improvement, and influences of a kindred nature, which characterize our day, afford facilities not hitherto enjoyed, so that all are without excuse; and may I not add, that all are beginning to feel that they are so much without excuse, as to put forth the appropriate efforts to secure for themselves a name and influence among educated minds? We have our "learned blacksmiths," who with their daily labor as their only means of support, have mastered, in a few short years, seventeen different languages; and as public lecturers in our largest cities stand forth, the wonder of an intelligent audience, entranced by their eloquence. The indifference and mental indolence of every mechanic is thus rebuked. He is fairly shamed out of his excuses, and compelled to commence intellectual employment. Should there be one here to-night, who excuses himself from mental effort on the ground of his position as to manual labor, the voice of *Burritt* more shrill than the sound of the hammer upon his anvil, breaking over the hills of Massachusetts, would echo in his ears the strains of one of New England's sweetest bards—

"Wake thou that sleepest in encharted bowers!
Lest these lost years shoul' haunt thee, on the night
When death is waiting for thy numbered hours,
To take their swift and everlasting flight.
Wake, e'er the earth-born charm unnerves thee quit
And be thy thoughts to work divine addressed;
Do something! do it soon! with all thy might!
An angel's wing would droop, if long at rest;
And God himself, inactive, were no longer ble[ss]

BENEFITS TO AGRICULTURE OF MECHANICS.

HOWITT in his "Rural Life in England" indulges himself with a chapter on Scientific Farming; and the immense advantages derived by the farmer from the great improvement in the mechanical arts. He says:

"And what a noble art is agriculture now become! Look at the manner it is now practised by the most skilful of its professors. Let any one just turn over the leaves of Mr. Loudon's Encyclopedia of Agriculture, and trace the progress of its implements only, from the plough of the ancients in the shape of a mere pick, to the almost endless machines which the active brains of men and their advancing knowledge of mechanics have given to the scientific farmer. Let any one turn to the list of engravings of farming apparatus in the same excellent work, amounting to about 300, and he will obtain some idea of the amount of science and invention now devoted to the use of the agriculturist. There are no men who have availed themselves of the progress of the arts and of general knowledge more than they. Mechanics' chemistry, hydraulics, steam, all have been seized upon to develop the principles, or facilitate the operations of agriculture. Within the last century the strides which have been made in this interesting department of knowledge are admirable. The Netherlands may be said to have been the mother of our modern agriculture—Scotland its nurse. Tull's system of horse, hoeing and drill husbandry has been introduced by Dawson, and has brought after it a numerous train of drills, dibbling-machines, horse-hoes, ploughs, rollers, scufflers, scarifiers, watering machines, brakers, drill-harrows, etc., which we now see almost everywhere where the old system of plain ploughing, harrowing, and broadcast sowing prevailed to the infinite loss of seed and growth of weeds. Then comes the thrashing machine invented by Menzies, and improved by Meikle from stage to stage, successively adapted to horses, wind, water, and eventually the giant power of steam, thus giving to the operations of the barn a rapidity equal to the skill and neatness displayed in the field.

"It is really, too, as curious to see on our scientific farms the vast variety of implements and machines which these causes have produced; ploughs—about a dozen and a half swing ploughs of different constructions, and by different patentees; harrows, drills, cultivators. Every species of soil and crop has its peculiar apparatus; in the field and the farm-yard, for getting the seed into the ground, clearing and dressing when there, for thrashing it out and cleaning it for market; for sowing peas, beans, turnips, carrots parsnips, etc, for chopping, slicing, and preparing them for cattle; their machines for tedding hay, for stacking it with least possible risk, for cutting and steaming it; for ploughing up weeds, ploughing up moorlands, and even roads; for reaping by wholesale, and raking by wholesale; for tapping deep springs, and guttering the surface for the escape of top-water: there are their machines for paring and leveling lumpy lands; for cross-cutting furrows to make rough mossy land take seed better; their channels, sluices, and schemes for irrigation. And then who shall tell all their implements for haybinding, rope twisting, furze-pounding for cattle; their novel churns, their ratteries, their new fangled mole-traps, their poultry-feeders and pheasant-feeders, by which those birds are enabled to help themselves from tin boxes supplied with grain for them, without feathered depredators being able to go shares with them. Truly Solomon might say that men now-a-days have sought out many inventions!"

ENGRAVINGS.

We have been disappointed in several articles which have been in progress from the commencement of our paper. The delay arises in part from the difficulty of getting the engravings prepared which are to accompany them, in consequence of which we have been obliged to substitute other articles in their places at a [mo]ment's notice. We were indebted to the politeness of Mr. Tucker of the Cultivator for two of those substitutes, viz: the alpaca in the 21 No., and the machine in our last. Mr. A. V. Blake also, of New-York, permitted copies to be taken of the cuts which accompanied the biography of Oliver Evans, from his work entitled *Eminent Mechanics*—a work which should be in the possession of every mechanic. It may be procured at the principal bookstores throughout the country.

BATHING.

Comparatively little attention is paid to the observance of this highly necessary practice. Many indeed are unaware, that the whole external skin is in some measure a breathing organ; that it is continually discharging impurities from the body; that it is the medium through which a large portion of the effete or worn out matter of the system passes off, and that in its anatomical structure and functional character, it holds very near and powerful relations to the lungs, stomach, and other internal organs. This being the case, it needs only to be acquainted with the fact to be convinced of the great importance of preserving its healthy condition, and of securing the vigorous performance of its functions. In order to this, [cl]eanliness; hence some mode of bathing should be frequently resorted to. The pleasurable sensations which follow bathing, arising from the clearing of the pores of the skin, should demonstrate its salutary effect, even to him who is ignorant of the cause. With the ancient Romans, and to this day with many of the eastern nations, the bath is one of the indispensable appendages to every house. With us, such a thing is scarcely known as a private bathing house; and bathing, except in the river during the summer months, almost as rare an occurrence. Ablutions of the whole body, at least as often as once or twice a week, winter as well as summer, are quite necessary to the promotion of health and longevity. They may be performed with so simple an apparatus as a common wash hand basin, a flesh brush and a towel. But this method should not be to the taste of all, we would advise them to resort to the bathing establishment of Mr. Beecher, 123 Broadway, where they may enjoy the highest degree of luxury. His accommodations are of the very best kind for summer or winter bathing; being sufficiently ventilated in the hot season and properly heated in the cold; they are fitted up with taste and neatness, and furnished with every convenience. We repeat, no one should neglect the practice of bathing.

DURATION OF NIGHT.

The nights have now reached their greatest length in this hemisphere, being in our latitude of 14 hours and 18 minutes duration, from sunset to sunrise. The nights are of the same length in Paris, but the difference in the climate is very great. The longest night at Cayenne and Pondicherry in the East Indies, is 12 hours; at Hayti in the West Indies, 13 hours; at Ispahan in Persia, 14; at Dublin in Ireland 16; at Stockholm in Sweden, 18; Drontheim in Norway and Archangel in Russia 20; at Ulon in Bothnia 21 (the night frosts frequently destroy the crops in July); at Torneo in Finland, 22 (in June the sun is visible above the horizon at midnight); at Euonteke the absence of the sun endures 45 days consecutively; at Wardhuns, 56; at Cape North 74; and, lastly, Melville's Island is totally destitute of the sun's rays for 122 days together! In contemplating this total of darkness, we can afford to thank God that we are permitted to see the sun once a day!

Apropos of sleep! How many that rise at five and six during the summer months, now indulge in sleep from eight to ten hours. Perhaps few of them have computed the amount of time thus lost—time which might be devoted to improving the mind, or otherwise usefully employed. The difference of rising every morning at six and eight o'clock, in the course of 40 years, supposing a person to go to bed at the same time he otherwise would, amounts to 29,200 hours; equal to 8 years of business days, of 10 hours each—the usual time alloted to business deducting eating hours. A very respectable education might be acquired by the right use of those little hours in that time. Let it also be remembered that the person who saves those two hours per day, *lives* one day of 12 hours per week, longer than another who squanders them upon his pillow, lulled by the soporific smorzando of his nasal cornicle!

OUR STATE PRISON SYSTEM.

It is said by the advocates of our penal code as now exists, that it is the most perfect and hu-ane of any in the civilized world; that it has at-cted the attention of our sister states, and even foreign lands. To this we have to reply; if have so far taken the lead—if our penal code the most perfect—yet if it falls short of that nt of perfection to which it *may* attain—if with the good connected with it, there is yet *some* l; is it not incumbent upon us to purge the sys-n of that evil? to carry it to a higher point? st certainly. Absolute perfection we of course not expect to attain; but that is far from per-t which, in its effects, injures seriously the in-ests of a class; and such we contend is the ef-t of the system as now existing. That the pri-s should sustain themselves without a tax upon state to support them, we say at once is per-tly right and just. That labor, exercise of ne kind, is essential to the health of prisoners, is o evident. The laws, as they now exist, are rect generally, perhaps the best that have ever en devised; but on one point, if no other, they manifestly wrong. It is an admitted fact, that general wants of society will be met and sup-ed by a corresponding increase to administer to se wants; and this is especially true with refe-nce to those wants which do not depend upon ntingencies, but may be supplied by enterprize d industry. Thus we find in our own country, ery branch of mechanical art is fully supplied; increase is in proportion to the demand. If increase is too great, the evil result is immme-tely felt. This is true of most branches of me-anics. There are some, indeed, which are not ly supplied, or of which the cost in other coun-es is less than here; which would in itself deter prosecution. If the state confines itself to the nufacture of articles of this description, we can ve no just ground of complaint. But to prevent state from entering into competition with her citizens, is our principal object. Should the te employ her convicts on her state works, as as practicable, we cannot complain; or should employ them in developing the inexhaustable asures in the northern counties of the state, she uld in the one case prevent the great influx of reigners, who now flood our country, and are ployed as pliant tools in the hands of designing d intriguing politicians, to subvert and corrupt r institutions; and in the latter case, diminish terially the importation of foreign iron from untries where the balance of trade is already ainst us. In every such case, it must prove de-mental to our interests. Our mines can be rked, and iron offered at as low rates, by the ployment of convicts, as it can be imported—rhaps we are safe in saying at lower rates. Is it, en, not important that this should be done,—not much to prevent the importation of this article, to do away with an evil of which mechanics have long complained, and under which they have so g labored. Should our legislature, in their isdom, devise a *better* plan, we are willing to pport it; and therefore we must urge the me-hanics to press the subject on the present legisla-re, and continue to do so till their wrongs are dressed. Unanimity of action is necessary to complish this desirable end; and it is all impor-nt that petitions should now be widely circulated, nd sent in at an early day.

SYNOPSIS OF NEWS, ETC.

A Yankee Farmer estimates the amount of produce annually sold in Fanueil Hall market, at $3,000,000, viz. Pork $3,750,000; Beef $1,750,000; Butter $600,000; Vegetables and Fruit $500,000; Mutton $300,000; Fish $300,000; Poultry $270,000; Cheese 250,000; Eggs, (2000 dozen per day, averaging 17 cts per dozen,) $117,000; Veal $6,300.

By a letter from Central America, we learn that the whole town of Cartaga, C. A., of about 30,000 inhabitants, was, with the exception of two houses, destroyed by an earthquake, about the middle of September last.

The annual direct trade from the single port at Rochester to Canada amounts to more than $600,000.

The assessed valuation of real and personal property of the city of New-York, amounts to $251,772,702!

The present number of whaling vessels out of New Bedford is 306, all square riggers.

It is estimated that the runaway slaves who have taken refuge in Canada, amount to about 20,000.

The tobacco crop of Missouri, amounts this year to over twelve thousand hogsheads. It is estimated that the crop of next year will amount to twenty thousand hogsheads.

The violence of the expansion of water when freezing, is sufficient to cleave a globe of copper of such thickness as to require a force of 23,000 lbs. to produce the same effect.

Plutarch was astonished to think what appetite first induced man to taste of a dead carcase—or what motive could suggest the notion of nourishing himself with the flesh of dead animals.

The shaft of the Artesian well at Southampton, England, has now reached the chalk of the great waterbearing stratum, a depth of 469 feet. The shaft is still proceeding at seven feet diameter.

The Niger expedition, from the time of quitting England to the 20th August, has lost only three men out of the 300 composing it. According to another statement nine have died; but this seems to be erroneous.

Two extensive lace manufactories, the one in Chesterfield the other in Brampton have ceased working. This is to be attributed to the large stocks and the difficulty of making sales.

A society has recently been formed of the various artists now resident in Boston and its vicinity. It is to be composed of the professors of the arts of painting, sculpture, architecture, and engraving. At the first meeting Washington Allston was, we learn, chosen President, and the office now waits his acceptance.

Owego, a pleasant village situated on the north side of the Susquehanna, should be witten *Owega*, says a traveling correspondent of the paper printed there. The name signifies in the Indian tongue *Swift* or *Swift rider*.

Mr. John Hootzell, of Adams county, Mississippi, has forwarded some beautiful specimens of cotton, the produce of the Egyptian, crossed with the twin seeds, which promises to be a great improvement in fineness, complexion and length of staple.

The whole amount of manufactures of leather in New England, is estimated by the Boston Atlas, at over $33,000,000. The whole of the immense business, says the *Providence Journal*, will be ruined by foreign competition, if the free trade doctrines are to prevail.

A little boy lately walked nearly a mile, carrying on his shoulder an iron article which weighs *twelve hundred pounds*!—don't start reader: the article was '*patent steel-yards.*'

A venerable quaker paper of Philadelphia, known as *Poulson's Daily Advertiser*, a few weeks since was merged in the *North American*. It had attained the respectable age of 70 years, and was the oldest daily in the Union.

The factory girls at Lowell have on deposit at the savings bank, upwards of $105,000. The whole number of depositors are 978. It is very common for one girl to have $500 on deposit.

The London papers say the loss by the late fire at the Tower of Lodpon has been greatly exaggerated. According to an estimate which has been made of the value of ordnance stores destroyed, it amounts to only £176,000, and the cost of re-erecting the buildings is stated at £50,000, making a total of £226,000.

Letters from Amsterdam mention a very large sale at Rotterdam of Java tea, of which about 3000 chests were sold for about the same price as the China leaf. Formerly, very small quantities of this article were sold at a time, and, as was supposed, more as a matter of curiosity than for actual use. Now, some of the judges of tea in Holland have been heard to remark that they consider the Java tea equal to, if not better than that of China, with the advantage that it will be found impossible to mix inferior with superior sorts.

In the burying ground of the ancient town of Windsor there is a monument almost two hundred years old, which stands firm with this inscription legible upon it, viz:

Who when Hee lived we drew our vital breath,
Who when he died, his dying was our death,
Who was the stay of State, of Church the staff,
Alas! the times forbid an Epitaph.

One of the satinet factories belonging to the Hampden Cotton Manufacturing Company, in Monson, Mass.. was entirely destroyed by fire with all its contents on Saturday morning. The factory was built but a few years since, and the machinery was almost new. The loss is estimated at $16,000. Insured at Manufacturers' Mutual at Worcester for $12,300.

The aggregate of the army now in service is 10,694—consisting of 728 commissioned officers, and 9966 non-commissioned officers, musicians and privates. The aggregate exceeds that of last year by only 124. Of these, 812 are reported as absent or sick. The whole number recruited during the year was 4922. The report seconds the recommendation of the General in Chief, for an increase of two regiments in the existing force.

By a passenger on the Col. Wood, we received a copy of the Jeffersonian of Saturday the 27th, giving an account of the destruction, by fire, of the State Prison. The loss to the state will amount to about $8,000—to individuals about $10,000.—*St. Louis Argus, November* 30.

A man in Huntingdon county, Pa. has a pig with five heads and twenty-one legs, all in one body

Mr. Louis, an æronaut, is announced in the New Orleans papers to make an ascension from that place in a balloon 120 feet in circumference.

The Salem Gazette says, there has been for several weeks neither criminal nor debtor in their jail, the only inmate being an unfortunate lunatic.

The Cleveland Herald states that the Ohio rail road is soon to be commenced along the whole line between Huron and Cleveland.

Anthracite Coal is manufactured into a great variety of ornaments as well as useful implements. The business has recently taken a new start in New York, and candlesticks, vases, inkstands and astral lamps are being manufactured of the article. Some of the ornamental work which we have seen is exceedingly beautiful.

Notwithstanding the duty of 10 cents per bushel on potatoes, large quantities have been imported from Nova Scotia the present season. The import at Boston last week reached nearly 15,000 bushels, which were all sold at from 30 to 50 cents per bushel. The price in Nova Scotia ranges from 14 to 20 cents per bushel.

Commodore Read, it is stated, has been appointed to the command of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, to succeed Commodore Stewart, who hoists his broad pennant as Commander of the Home Squadron.

LEATHER, OIL, AND FINDING STORE,

No. 18 Hudson Street.

J. HOCHSTRASSER,

Will continue the above business at his old stand, and having made arrangements with manufacturers of Leather and Morocco in the cities of N. York, Philadelphia, and Albany, and having in his employ first rate workmen, he is enabled to supply his customers with all the articles in his line on the most reasonable terms, at *Wholesale* or *Retail*, the following are included in his assortment: Oak and Hemlock Harness, Bridle, Collar, Horse, Trunk, Valise and Skirting Leather; Hog Skins, Philadelphia Russet Bridle, do. Facing Skins, do. Lining Hides, do. Top Hides, Patent Leather, Coach Roans, Neats Foot and Liver Oil, Currier's Tools, Oak Sole Leather, Hemlock do., Wax and Grain Upper Leather, do. Calf Skins, Keen's Philadelphia do., Seal and Kip Skins, Splits and Welt Leather, Cordovan, Red, Green, White and Yellow Linings, Goat and Sheep Binding Skins, White Alum Dressed Linings, Dressed and Undressed Morocco, Colored Goat and Sheep Skins, English Shoe Thread of all numbers, India Rubber and Patent Cloth, Apron Skins, Stock Binding, &c.

N. B. An assortment of Shoe Maker's Findings will be kept on hand.

Also, *Roller Skins, Engine Hose, Band, Picker, String*, and *Patent Leather*, on hand and made to order. *Albany*, 1841.

MISCELLANY.

The beautiful lines which follow are from the January number of "*The Parlor Magazine and Lady's Cabinet*," a new Monthly Magazine,* which will be issued from this office on the commencement of the new year. We transfer them in anticipation to our columns, and our readers cannot fail to admire their characteristic beauty and simplicity. It is one of the many excellent productions of the gifted author.—*Ed.*

NIGHT BLOOMING FLOWERS.

BY JULIET H. LEWIS.

I.

Fair buds! I've wandered day by day
To this sequestered spot,
That I might catch your earliest smiles,
And yet, ye open not.
The morning mists are scattered now,
No cloud is in the sky,
The sun, like a benignant king,
Smiles from his throne on high;
While birds, in gushing melody,
Are offering homage up;
And sister flowers beneath his gaze,
Ope' wide each fragile cup.
Why shut ye then your incense in,
And hide your loveliness,
As though you may not share their joy
Beneath the sun's caress?

II.

Now wake ye! 't is the sunset hour,
The day king has gone down;
Yet still, upon the mountain's top,
Is seen his brilliant crown;
Awake ye! if its gleaming gems,
Its bands of glittering gold,
Its glorious, life-like radiance,
Departing, ye'd behold.
The river's touched with glowing light,
And rolls a crimsoned flood;
While heaven's blush has lent its hues
Unto the leafy wood.
Still, are you folded to your dreams?
Bright must those visions be,
If they surpass the gorgeousness
Of heaven's pageantry!

III.

Good night! the stars are gemming heaven,
And seem like angels' eyes,
Resuming now their silent watch
Within the far off skies;
They nightly on their burning thrones
Like guardian spirits ke p,
Familiar vigil o'er the world,
Wrapt in its solemn sleep;
And tenderly they gaze on us,
Those children of the air,
While every ray they send to you
Some message seems to bear,
That stirs you to the inmost core:
You thrill beneath their beams,
And start, and tremble, wildly, like
Ambition in his dreams.

IV.

Now, lo! ye burst your emerald bonds,
And ope' your languid eyes,
And spread your loveliness before
Those dwellers of the skies;
While incense, from your grateful hearts,
Like prayer ascends to heaven;
And kindly dew, and starry light,
Are answering blessings given.
"Ask and ye shall recieve," you seem
To whisper to my heart,
And move me in your worshipping
To take an active part.
Sweet teachers! 't is an hour for prayer,
When hushed are sounds of mirth,
And slumber rests his balmy wing
Upon the weary earth;
When all the ties that bind the soul
To worldliness, are riven—
Then heart-felt prayers, like loosened birds,
Will wing their way to heaven.

* This work will be entirely original, containing 32 royal octavo pages, on fine paper, and embellished with Plates and the Quarterly Fashions, at the very low price of $2 per annum, or $1 per volume, i. e. for six months. J. Munsell, publisher, 58 State-st., Albany.

EPIGRAMS.

The following was chalked on the cell door of a little urchin, about nine years old, who was sent to prison for stealing ginger pop:

"Him wot prigs wot isn't his'n,
When he's cotch'd must go to pris'n."

"My charmer! I would DIE for thee
If thou would'st only LIVE for me!"
"Ah! do," replies the dark-eye'd elf,
"I NEVER WANT TO DIE MYSELF!"

Lothario. Ah! dearest Anna, of your love I'm dying,
And at your feet I lie.——
Anna. ————I see you're lying.

BOOKS.

I know how hard it is for some men, especially to those who spend much of their time in manual labor, to fix attention on books. Let them strive to overcome the difficulty by choosing subjects of deep interest, or by reading in company with those whom they love. Nothing can supply the place of books. They are cheering or soothing companions in solitude, illness, affliction. The wealth of both continents would be no equivalent for the good they impart. Every man, if possible, should gather some good books under his roof, and obtain access for himself and family to some social library. Almost any luxury should be sacrificed to this.—*Dr. Channing.*

AUNT LIZZY.

Was deacon Snip's wife's sister, a maiden lady of about fifty. She went to all the meetings, kept a regular account of every birth, death, and marriage with their dates; doctored the babies; showed the young married ladies how to make soap, and when they had bad luck made every child in the house sit cross-legged until the bad luck was changed.

THE EARLY SETTLEMENTS.

The following table exhibits a tolerably correct statement of the time of the first settlement of the several states. The settlement of Albany, however, is placed by some two or three years earlier.

States or Territories.	Date of Settlement.	Oldest Town.	By whom Peopled.
Florida,	1565	St. Augustine.	Spanish.
Virginia.	1607	Jamestown.	English.
New York,	1614	Albany.	Dutch.
Massachusetts,	1620	Plymouth.	English.
New Hampshire,	1623	Dover.	do.
New Jersey,	1624	Bergen.	Danes.
Delaware,	1627	Gape Henlopen.	Swedes and Fins.
Maine,	1630	York.	English.
Connecticut,	1633	Windsor.	do.
Maryland,	1634	St. Mary's.	do.
Rhode Island,	1636	Providence.	do.
North Carolina,	1650	Albemarle.	do.
South Carolina,	1670	Port Royal.	do.
Michigan,	1670	Detroit,	French.
Pennsylvania,	1682	Philadelphia.	English.
Illinois,	1683	Kaskaskia.	French.
Arkansas,	1685	Arkansas Post.	do.
Indiana,	1690	Vincennes.	do.
Louisiana,	1699	Herville.	do.
Alabama,	1702	Fort near Mobile.	do.
Mississippi,	1716	Natchez.	do.
Vermont,	1725	Fort Dummer.	English.
Georgia,	1733	Savannah.	do.
Tennessee,	1756	Fort London.	do.
Missouri,	1763	St. Genevieve.	French.
Kentucky,	1775	Boonsborough.	Daniel Boon. from Virg'a.
Ohio,	1788	Marietta.	Emigrants fr. N. England.

A TURKISH BEAUTY.

I enjoyed the pleasure this morning of being introduced to a very handsome Turkish lady, in order to give me an opportunity of witnessing a perfect specimen of oriental beauty. After a good deal of persuasion she allowed me to copy her profile. Her eyes and eye-lashes were intensely black; though I suspect the latter were stained of a deeper dye than the natural one. Her complexion was beautifully fair, with the slightest tinge of carnation suffused over the cheek. Her lips! sweet lips! that make us sigh even to have seen such. Her glossy hair, which was hung with a kalemkeir or painted handkerchief, representing a whole parterre of flowers, fell in loose curls upon her shoulders, and down her back. She wore a short black velvet jacket, embroidered with gold lace; trousers of sky blue silk; an under jacket of pink crape, and one of those beautiful transparent shirts which ravish the beholder, and "half reveal the charms they fain would hide." A magnificent Persian shawl encircled her waist, which had nature's own form, never having been compressed by the cruel bondage of stays. Her feet were in slippers, and two or three ugly rings deformed her white and slender fingers, the nails of which were dyed with henna. Around her neck she wore a double row of pearls, from which hung an amulet. Her skin was w white and beautiful, the constant use of the dry va bath having reduced it to a fineness which I can compare to a highly polished marble, and it loo as glossy and as cold. She was well pleased with drawing I made, and on rising to go away, she pu her yellow boots over the beautiful white foot and kle which it was a sin to conceal; then donning cashmack and cloak, she bade us adieu with a g and elegance which few English ladies could eq No wonder the Turks sigh for paradise, when t believe heaven to be peopled with houris such these.—*Auldjo's visit to Constantinople.*

PETRIFIED HUMAN BODY.

The remains of the venerable widow Merry, merly of Coatbride, after a pilgrimage of 82 year this sublunary sphere, were conveyed to their last ting place in Old Monkladd church-yard by a resp able company of relatives and friends. Some five- twenty years ago the husband of the deceased wi Merry paid the debt of nature, after a toilsome exemplary life, as dominie of Muired, now inclu Dundyvan estate, and his remains were deposite the grave which had to be opened on Wednesday for the reception of his widow's remains. The gr digger, in the performance of his duty, reached coffin which had been so long embedded in the ea and was much surprised to find it comparatively fr but the upper part of it forming an obstruction to labors, he broke it, and in doing so injured most terially the singular contents of the coffin; for, a moving the rest of the lid, there lay the veritable minie of Dundyvan, a complete petrifaction! coffin, it now appears, had been saturated in wa upon which the body had gradually but successf finished the wonderful transmutation.

For the sake and for the cause of science, it w have been gratifying to have had these singular lies preserved; but the relatives of the deceased dow insisted on their re-interment, and, for their ter security, a layer of earth and an iron safe w placed over them. The color and appearance of body was that of black oak wood, and from the sh ders downwards the members were regular and tire; the body, legs, feet, aye, and the very nail the toes, being petrified in their order. As a proo its solidity, the grave digger stood upon it, wit making the slightest impression on the wonderf transmted body of the once bustling dominie of D dyvan.—*Glasgow Chron.*.

THE BASKET WILLOW.

The planting of the *basket willow-tree*, in wet, w places, or along the margin of streams, yields profit, proportioned to the outlay, than raising wh or making butter; and when once started requires further trouble than annually to cut the twigs. It shame to put it in print, and yet it is true, that a ally there are large quantities of willows for bask imported into this country from Holland. We import annually, thousands of dollars worth of b kets, ready made to our hands, from France and ot countries

PROSPECTUS
OF THE
NEW YORK STATE MECHANI
A weekly paper, devoted to the interests of Mech ics and Manufacturers.

It is proposed to publish at Albany, a weekly paper under above title, the object of which will be to advocate the right privileges of that great portion of community to which it appeal support, and to disseminate every species of information and ful knowledge adapted to its wants. The topics intended t discussed, will embrace the useful sciences, whose applicat to the various arts and trades will be illustrated; all new s tific discoveries and mechanical inventions, which will be ac panied by an engraving when important; discussions of p measures and institutions which have a bearing upon mecha labor; accounts of curious arts and experiments; biographi eminent mechanics and artists; histories of manufactures descriptions of manufacturing establishments in differ nt sect of he country; statistics of the resources, products, &c., of s ufacturing towns and districts; together with a synopsis o most important news, and other useful and entertaining ma from every accessible source. It will be seen that the field posed is one capable of affording a distinguished publication, in order to occupy it fully, efficient writers will be enlisted.

Other professions and callings have their publications, w are useful in their spheres, and it is believed that the mechani the State of New-York will readily perceive how great a des ratum remains to be supplied at their hands, and cheerfully ex their patronage to an undertaking, in which they have so deep interest; a work which is intended to minister to the wants of t intellectual and political condition—eschewing the partizan poli of the day, but freely dicussing all questions and measures of p tical economy.

The *New-York State Mechanic* will be printed on a royal sh quarto, in the best style of execution, forming at the end of year a volume of more than 400 pages of useful matter, worth preservation for future reference; and will be afforded at $1.5 annum in advance, a price which will place it within the reach the humblest artisan.

J. MUNSELL & C
Albany, Oct. 1841. No. 58 State-St